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## WHOLE ISSUE *Nebraska Bird Review* (March 1972) 40(1)

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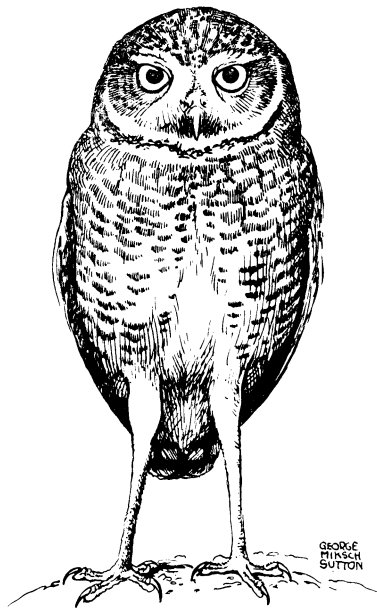
# The Nebraska Bird Review

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## Nebraska Bird Review

## 1971 TREASURER'S REPORT

			CASH	INVEST- MENTS	PAY- ABLE	CURRENT ACCOUNT	TOTAL ASSETS
Balance January 1, 1971			1,347.58	1,761.32	512.51		2,596.39
RECEIPTS							
Member-	111 Active	\$4	444.00				
ships	23 Sustaining	\$6	138.00				
	22 Family Active	\$6	132.00				
	4 Family Sustaining	\$8	32.00				
	17 Student	\$2	34.00				
	4 Life	\$75	300.00			1,080.00	
Subscrip-	21 Direct	\$4.00	84.00				
tions	21 Agency	\$3.50	73.50				
	1 Foreign Agency	\$3.75	3.75			161.25	
Miscel-	Check-lists		24.00				
aneous	Field Cards		14.96				
	Revised Check-lists		69.00				
	Supplement to Check-lists		10.00				
	Review Copies		12.00				
	Birds of the Black Hills		20.00				
	Birds of Dakota County		1.00				
	Occ. Papers 2,3,4,5		6.00				
	Loan of Color Slides		5.00				
	Interest Earned		6.25	128.38			
	Gifts, 2@\$9, 1@\$25		43.00				
	Spring Meeting (surplus)		3.90			343.49	
	TOTAL RECEIPTS		1,456.36	128.38		1,584.74	
DISBURSEMENTS							
Review	Printing		280.86		410.00		
	Postage		90.00			780.86	
Officers'	R. G. Cortelyou		45.69				
Expenses	Kent Fiala		4.83				
	Mrs. Sigvald Jensen		11.02				
	Mrs. Clyde Johnson (news)		36.43			97.97	
Miscel-	Revised Check-lists and Supple.	225.50					
aneous	Dues Notices	6.00					
	Fidelity Bond	10.00					
	Corporation Fee	5.00					
	Membership in Q.E.C.	35.00				281.50	
	TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS		750.33		410.00	1,160.33	
	NET GAIN FOR 1971						424.41
	Investments to Cash		61.32	(61.32)			
	Cash to Investments		(900.00)	900.00			
	1970 Payable paid		(512.51)		(512.51)		
Balance December 31, 1971			702.42	2,728.38	410.00		3,020.80
	Life Membership Fund					1,128.00	
	Memorial Fund					20.00	
	Endowment Fund					79.74	
	Unallocated					1,793.06	

## SIGHTINGS OF THE COMMON CRANE (EUROPEAN) IN NEBRASKA IN SPRING 1972

Dr. Mary M. Tremaine

On Wednesday, March 29, 1972, Glenn Viehmeyer called me from North Platte to say that the Denver Field Ornithologists had reported a Common Crane (European) (*Grus grus*) in the area between North Platte and Sutherland on March 26. Gail Shickley called me from Colorado that evening and said the Denver group were not sure they had been able to get a photograph of the bird, so it would be helpful if I could try. I went as far as Elm Creek Thursday evening with plans to go the remaining eighty miles to North Platte on Friday. Unfortunately, the weather was bad Friday morning, and since I knew I would have to have sun to photograph a bird four hundred feet away, I decided to go to my blind on the Glen V. Morse farm, six miles west and two miles south of the Interstate at the Elm Creek interchange, rather than going on to North Platte.

At 10:45 A.M. on Friday, March 31, a Common Crane (European) walked into the view-finder of my camera (Hasselblad with 500 mm. lens) in the pasture of the Morse farm. The bird was the size of the Greater Sandhill Crane, at least; it was browner than our adult Lesser Sandhill Cranes, but had very black primaries and tips of secondaries in contrast to the pattern in Lesser Sandhill Cranes, which don't seem an intensely deep black to me. The neck and head were black except for white as described below; the division between the black foreneck and the breast was as sharp as in a Canada Goose; a conspicuous white area began on the side of the head back of the eye (which seemed red) and extended in a stripe down the side of the neck; the white stripes from each side met in a V in the back of the neck. I could make out only a suggestion of red on the crown of the head (red shows at the rear of the crown of the head in the pictures); the bill was greenish-yellow.

This bird behaved like an adult; it seemed to maintain somewhat greater distance from the Lesser Sandhills than the latter species customarily do amongst themselves, and enforced this distance with an attack feint towards birds that blundered too close. This type of behavior is very seldom exhibited by immature Lesser Sandhill Cranes. The group of cranes with which the Common Crane associated seemed to be familiar with this behavior and avoided coming closer than about five to six feet to the Common Crane.

Since I have been unable to find a book which gives sequence of plumage or any description I can't say whether the bird at Elm Creek was an immature or an adult. The bird seen at North Platte was described as gray.

My bird drank, fed along the stream, and slept in my view for five hours on March 31, after which it flew off to feed with the small flock with which it was associating (about thirty birds). I photographed the bird in color at 120 feet and in black and white at 250 feet. These negatives required extreme enlargement, but the bird is recognizable.

On Saturday, April 1, Mr. Morse saw the Common Crane a little after 9 A.M. flying alone to a corn field where other cranes were feeding. I did not see the bird from my blind, although it could have been there; my field of view from the blind is very limited. However, I saw the bird at about 6:30 P.M. flying toward the Overton roost. Neither Mr. Morse nor I saw



— Photo Mary Tremaine





— Photo Mary Tremaine

the bird on Sunday, April 2. Loafing birds in the pasture were "spooked out" shortly after their arrival at noon by people who got out of their cars on the road to take pictures.

Detailed information with times of day of the sightings of the Common Crane in the North Platte area is incomplete at this time, but Mrs. Christine Bonney of Denver gave me the following: "The Denver Field Ornithologists had their meeting Tuesday evening March 28th and Lois Webster who had led the Audubon trip to North Platte Saturday and Sunday, March 25 and 26, announced the sighting of the Common Crane. Thompson March was at the meeting and started immediately for North Platte. He found the crane the next morning, Wednesday. And the next day the John Coopers drove to the same area between Hershey and North Platte on U.S. 80 and after some searching they also saw it to their satisfaction. On Friday I am told that another of our experts went to look for it - Jack Reddal - and saw it. I did not hear where he saw it. Our bird was more gray than brown and the red was observed on its head . . . I feel ours was an adult. I am inclined to think that your sighting had to be another bird."

And from Gail Shickley "I . . . got Thompson Marsh on the telephone Saturday evening and learned that there were birdwatchers from Denver in the North Platte area every day last week and that all of them succeeded in seeing the European Crane . . . He said that Mildred Snyder was one of the group that saw it near North Platte on Friday."

Although more complete information is needed, it seems clear that there have been two Common Cranes in Nebraska with the Lesser Sandhill Cranes, but in different flocks. Since both species nest in Siberia, it seems probable

that a pair (or an adult and an immature depending on final identifications) flew the North American flyway with the Lesser Sandhill Cranes. It is possible that the individuals could have become separated in Texas or Mexico in the panic flights that result from hunting in those areas. Let's hope both those flocks of Lesser Sandhills are heading for Siberia so both Common Cranes get back!

It would be interesting to know if these birds were sighted elsewhere in North America during this migration season.

I regret that I was unable to stay over and go to North Platte on Monday, April 3, to look for the bird there. It seemed better to stay in the Elm Creek area to document the Common Crane there and attempt to establish whether or not there were two birds on the weekend of April 1. There were only a very few Cranes in the North Platte area on Sunday, April 9; they must have all gone north sometime during that week.

*University of Nebraska Medical Center  
Omaha*

It was quite foggy Sunday, the morning we saw the Common Crane, and it was feeding with a large group of Sandhill Cranes in a field by U.S. 80 between Hershey and North Platte. We had several telescopes and several of our group were able to see it and watch it feeding. We did not know at the time what it was, and only were able to identify it after we got home and found the reference in bird books. It is pictured in Peterson's *Birds of Britain*.

— *Mrs. Christine Booney, Denver*

I found the Common Crane at approximately 8:15 A.M. Mountain Standard Time (which of course was 9:15 A.M. local or Central Standard Time) March 31, 1972. It was feeding in a stubble field with a small flock of Sandhill Cranes about six or seven miles east of Hershey just north of Highway 30. So far as I can determine, my sighting was the last in the Hershey area. Mr. Harold Holt of Denver journeyed to the area on Sunday, April 2, but failed to locate the bird. Mrs. Merle C. Barbour of Englewood, Colorado, and Mrs. Elmer Ausfahl, also of Englewood, saw the bird at Hershey about 90 minutes before I did on March 31 in almost the very same field. The bird at Hershey was a highly plumaged adult and although feeding in the company of Sandhills it seemed content to remain at the edge of the flock. I failed to see the red on the head but the light wasn't all that good and it was also an extremely windy day. I neither saw the bird fly nor heard it call. It certainly appears that there were two birds, especially when one considers the time and distance involved between Hershey and Elm Creek.

— *Jack Redall, Englewood, Colorado*

On March 26, 1972, Lois Webster and a group of Denver birders saw a Common Crane (*Grus grus*) in a flock of Sandhill Cranes between mileposts 171 and 172 on U.S. 30 between North Platte and Hershey. Thompson Marsh, of Denver, saw the bird March 28 and called Mrs. Walter Nielsen, North Platte, who drove out to the location but failed to locate the bird. George Nelson, Conservation Officer, Nebraska Game and Parks Commission, saw the bird March 29, as did some more birders from Denver.

There wasn't, as far as I can learn, a single sighting of the bird by any of our North Platte people, other than Mr. Nason. This sort of gives us an inferiority complex when "dam furriners" from Colorado can make repeated sightings! I suppose our people drove a thousand miles in the crane area around Hershey; I made three trips out to see if I could find the critter but

no luck! I saw Dr. Tremaine's photo and the bird stands out so plainly that one could scarcely miss it if he had his glasses on a flock.

Dr. Tremaine believes that there isn't much indication that there is exchange between the Hershey and Elm Creek flocks. My own feeling is that there is some exchange for, in observations between Hershey and Elm Creek, I have seen Crane flocks flying high and traveling parallel to the river. This is something that needs a lot more study before we will know.

If I had to guess I'd say two birds.

— Glenn Viehmeyer, North Platte

Because of suggestions (from Dr. Pettingill among others) that the birds probably were escapees, I talked in late April to Dr. Lee Simmons, Director of the Henry Doorly Zoo, Omaha. He had not heard of any such escape. If he heard later he was going to call me, but I have had no call through May.

— R. G. Cortelyou, Omaha

### A Great Blue Heron Colony in Hitchcock County

The Great Blue Heron (*Ardea herodias*) is considered a common migrant and summer resident in Nebraska, nesting in widely scattered colonies through-out the state (Rapp, *et al.* Revised Checklist of Nebraska Birds, Occas. Papers of N.O.U. No. 5, 1958). However, very few nesting colonies (heronries) in the state have been reported in the literature. This note documents the occurrence of a heronry found in western Hitchcock County on 12 June 1971.

The heronry was located on the west end of Swanson Lake (Section 8, T-2N, R-34W, Hitchcock Co.), a reservoir on the Republican River near Trenton, Nebraska. A total of 28 nests was observed but only 22 appeared to be used by the herons. The nests were all in dead elm trees about 200 feet from shore in an area of woods inundated by water.

The contents of the nests could not be seen from the waters edge, but the use of a spotting scope from a hill overlooking the site allowed me to look into the lowest nests. One nest contained four eggs, another six nests contained four young each, and eight nests contained three young each. I was able to observe single young in four other nests, but whether these contained additional young is uncertain. Three nests had one or two adults attending them but no young were visible.

A return visit to the heronry on 28 June 1971 revealed that two of the nests that previously contained young were empty. Three additional nests had been constructed and were attended by adult herons. The heights of the nests above the water were measured using an Abney level (lowest-45 feet; highest-95 feet; mean-62 feet), but both the height of the nest above the water and the number of nests in a single tree (one tree held seven nests) seemed to be primarily dependent on the number and position of branches capable of supporting heron nests.

Great Blue Herons were observed along the Republican and Frenchman Rivers and their tributaries in Hitchcock County, but the Swanson Lake heronry was the only evidence of breeding for this species. It is only a quarter mile from Highway 34 yet is hidden from view and offers no easy means of access. This undoubtedly enabled the colony to become established and persist.

Calvin L. Cink

Department of Zoology

University of Nebraska/Lincoln



## WINTER MEETING

The Winter Meeting was held a little later than usual, on March 19, as part of the First West Central Audubon Conference held March 17 to 20, 1972, in Grand Island. NOU was a co-host for the conference. The conference theme was "Saving Our Scenic Rivers and Vanishing Prairie". The conference program, on the afternoon of Saturday, March 18, was presided over by Mr. Charles H. Callison, Executive Vice President of the National Audubon Society, and consisted of:

The Ecological Significance of the Platte — a River Threatened by the Mid-State Reclamation Project, Mr. Ron Klataske, West Central Regional Representative, National Audubon Society

Adverse Aspects of Mid-State on the Farming Community, Mr. Mark Bolin, Director, Mid-State Irrigators, Inc., Gibbon, Nebraska

An Economic Analysis of the Mid-State Project, Dr. Steven Hanke, Department of Geography and Environmental Engineering, John Hopkins University

An Environmental Impact for Nebraska's Wild River - Crisis on the Niobrara, Dr. Larry Holcomb, Creighton University

Mr. Nathaniel Reed, Assistant Secretary of Interior for Parks and Wildlife, spoke at the banquet, which was presided over by Dr. Elvis J. Stahr.

NOU held its meeting Sunday morning, concurrently with various conference workshop sessions. An unofficial business meeting was held first, and the Norden and Mid-States projects were discussed, and also a proposal to sponsor the AOU meeting for 1974. At the following paper session Charles R. Frith spoke on "The Ecology of the Sandhill Crane in Southcentral Nebraska", Dan Hatch on "Hybrid Infertility as a Reproductive Isolating Mechanism in Quail", and Loren Bonde, U. S. Game Management Agent, spoke extemporaneously on "Game Management". About twenty-eight members and visitors attended.

The topic for the Sunday afternoon session of the conference, again presided over by Mr. Callison, was "Audubon Action Priorities and the National Outlook". The following talks were given:

Prospects for a Prairie National Park, Dr. E. Raymond Hall, University of Kansas.

Success in Prairie Preservation, Mr. Don Christisen, Advisor, The Missouri Prairie Foundation, Columbia.

The weather was sunny, in the 60's and 70's, for the field trips taken during the conference. Fifty-four species were seen by NOU members: Canada, White-fronted, Snow, and Blue Geese; Mallard, Gadwall, Pintail, Green-winged Teal, American Widgeon, Shoveler, Redhead, Ring-necked Duck, Canvasback, Lesser Scaup, Bufflehead, Common Merganser, Red-tailed Hawk, Bald Eagle, Marsh and Sparrow Hawks, Ring-necked Pheasant, Sandhill Crane, American Coot, Killdeer, Lesser Yellowlegs, Herring and Ring-billed Gulls, Rock and Mourning Doves, Belted Kingfisher, Flicker, Red-bellied and Downy Woodpeckers, Common Crow, Black-capped Chickadee, Robin, Eastern and Mountain Bluebirds, Cedar Waxwing, Loggerhead Shrike, Starling, House Sparrow, Eastern and Western Meadowlarks, Red-winged Blackbird, Common Grackle, Cardinal, Purple Finch, Common Redpoll, Pine Siskin, Slate-colored Junco; Tree, Harris', and Song Sparrows.

## 1971 NEBRASKA NESTING SURVEY

Compiled by Dr. Esther V. Bennett

Data on the 1971 Nesting Season in Nebraska were received from 38 observers, reporting on 81 species from 25 counties. Counties in the tabulation are listed in a west to east order, with the northernmost of approximately equal locations given first. Numbers represent Nest Record Cards; letters are from NOU Nesting Report forms: N represents nests observed; Y represents young observed; F represents carrying food; and M represents carrying nesting material. Fifty-seven Nebraska species were reported on 865 North American Nest Record Cards. In addition, unidentified nests were reported on two cards and out-of-state nests were reported on 70 cards.

The counties (with column numbers on the tabulation shown in parentheses) and the contributors were: Adams (13), E. F. Kennedy, E. R. Ritchey, O. W. Ritchey, Harold J. Turner, Bernice Welch; Buffalo (9), J. C. W. Bliese, R. L. Fellows, R. J. Schmidt, B. J. Steger; Butler (16), Z. Uridil; Cass (21), R. G. Cortelyou; Cherry (4), Ned I. Peabody, John W. Koerner; Clay (14), Elden and Ruth Percival; Cuming (17), Larry L. Einemann; Custer (7), R. L. Fellows; Dawes (1), L. J. Padelford, Z. Uridil, Dawson (8), D. W. Clemans; Douglas (19), Larry C. Holcomb, R. G. Cortelyou; Garden (3), Ronald L. Perry; Greeley (11), Douglas C. Moody; Hall (12), H. B. Johnson, Wm. W. Lemburg; Johnson (23), Sam Antholz; Kearney (10), D. W. Zaroban, E. R. Ritchey; Lancaster (18), Esther Bennett, Sue L. Blackman, Kit K. Dimon, Ed Fogerty, Norma Johnson, Ann A. Myers, Frances L. Taylor; Lincoln (6), Mrs. Morris A. Cox; McPherson (5), Oona S. Bassett; Nemaha (24), R. H. Heskett; Otoe (22) Sam Antholz, Sue L. Blackman, Jim R. Commers, Ann A. Myers; Richardson (25), Sue L. Blackman; Sarpy (20), R. G. Cortelyou, I. L. Nuland, L. J. Padelford; Sheridan (2), Z. Uridil; York (15), Lee Morris.

Contributors of at least 15 cards included: Frances L. Taylor (248) (6 Kansas, 4 Oklahoma), Oona S. Bassett (125) (10 Colorado, 38 Arizona, 1 New Mexico), Douglas C. Moody (57), Sam Antholz (43), Sue L. Blackman (32), Esther Bennett (28), Larry C. Holcomb (26), Bernice Welch (20), Ann A. Meyers (18), Lee Morris (17), and Elden and Ruth Percival (15).

The following 25 Nebraska species which were reported for 1971 were not reported in the 1970 Nesting Survey (*NBR* 39:10): Green Heron, Trumpeter Swan, Canada Goose, Gadwall, Pintail, Green-winged Teal, American Widgeon, Shoveler, Redhead, Canvasback, Ruddy Duck, Red-tailed Hawk, Greater Prairie Chicken, Black Tern, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Burrowing Owl, Poor-will, Chimney Swift, Say's Phoebe, Rock Wren, Mockingbird, Brewer's Blackbird, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Black-headed Grosbeak, and Chipping Sparrow.

Sixteen species reported in the 1970 Nesting Survey were not reported in 1971: Eared Grebe, Double-crested Cormorant, Great Blue Heron, Black-crowned Night Heron, Marsh Hawk, Sora, Forster's Tern, Eastern Phoebe, Traill's Flycatcher, Eastern Wood Pewee, Western Wood Pewee, Purple Martin, Mountain Bluebird, Scarlet Tanager, Indigo Bunting, and Rufous-sided Towhee.

Three species - Green Heron, Trumpeter Swan, and Poor-will were added to the list of Nebraska nesting species (*NBR* 39:15; *NBR* 39:58

— Text continued on page 15



[illegible]



	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	Total
Mockingbird	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Catbird	-	-	-	-	-	Y	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	11	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	14
Brown Thrasher	-	-	-	-	-	F,Y	-	1	-	-	Y	-	-	-	-	-	-	15	-	-	-	3	1	1	-	21
Robin	-	-	-	-	Y,2	N,Y	2	3	-	N	Y,10	3	1	-	-	-	Y,26	2	1	1	8	-	2	2	63	
Eastern Bluebird	-	-	-	-	-	Y	-	-	-	-	Y	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Loggerhead Shrike	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	2	-	1	-	6
Starling	-	-	-	-	-	Y	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	3
Bell's Vireo	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	N,Y	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8
Warbling Vireo	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Y	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Yellow Warbler	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
House Sparrow	-	-	-	-	14	Y	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	16
Meadowlark sp.	-	-	-	-	Y,3	N	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	3	-	-	9
Yellow-headed Blackbird	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
Red-winged Blackbird	-	1	-	-	Y,1	N	-	-	-	6	-	-	-	-	6	-	-	42	Y,2	-	-	-	-	-	-	58
Orchard Oriole	-	-	-	-	M	Y	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Y,2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Baltimore Oriole	-	-	-	-	Y	F,Y	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
Brewer's Blackbird	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Common Grackle	-	-	-	-	Y	-	-	1	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	22	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	29
Brown-headed Cowbird	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	10	Y,1	-	-	-	-	-	-	12

	Daves	Sheridan	Garden	Cherry	McPherson	Lincoln	Custer	Dawson	Buffalo	Kearney	Grealey	Hall	Adams	Clay	York	Butler	Cumming	Lancaster	Douglas	Sarpy	Cass	Otoe	Johnson	Nemaha	Richardson	Total Cards
Cardinal	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	
	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	Y,6	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	8
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	Y	-	-	-	-	1	2
Black-headed Grosbeak	-	-	-	-	-	Y,F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Blue Grosbeak	-	-	-	Y,1	-	-	-	F	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	Y	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
Dickcissel	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
American Goldfinch	-	-	-	-	-	Y	-	-	-	-	N	-	-	1	-	-	-	9	2	-	1	-	-	-	-	13
Lark Bunting	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Y	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Grasshopper Sparrow	-	-	-	Y,F	-	-	-	-	-	1	N	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Lark Sparrow	-	-	-	Y,F,M	-	-	-	-	-	-	N	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
Chipping Sparrow	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Field Sparrow	-	-	-	Y	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Y	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Nest Cards	1	9	-	167	81	-	1	3	5	-	57	1	32	16	17	1	-	366	27	6	2	54	6	6	7	865
Individuals	1	7	-	5	14	-	1	2	3	-	17	1	8	6	6	1	-	35	7	5	2	13	4	5	4	57
Species																										
No Nest Cards	1	-	11	3	13	29	-	-	1	2	-	8	4	-	-	-	2	2	5	2	-	-	-	-	-	24
Species																										
Total Species	2	7	11	8	27	29	1	2	4	2	17	9	12	6	6	1	2	37	12	7	2	13	4	5	4	81

Least Bittern, Mockingbird), bringing the total to 138 species reported since 1965. Ned I. Peabody, Valentine National Wildlife Refuge, reported November 18, 1971 (personal communication) the following:

"The Trumpeter Swans have nested on "21" Lake for the past three years. They are not the same pair, however. The original pair nested in 1969, producing two cygnets, and again in 1970, this time producing four cygnets, three to flight stage. During the fall of 1970, the pen was shot on Merritt Reservoir and wounded. It was taken to LaCreek National Wildlife Refuge in South Dakota for care, and determined that the distal portion of the humerus had been shattered by shotgun pellets, and that she would never fly again. But in the spring of 1971, a pair of Trumpeter Swans were back on "21" Lake and nested on the same muskrat house that was used in 1970. We theorized that the cob had remated and brought his new bride back to the refuge. They hatched two young, probably on June 19 or 20. All four swans are still on the refuge and have recently been joined by four others, an adult and three immatures."

He also reported that:

"Canada geese also nest on the refuge, mostly as a result of a captive flock program which was terminated in 1968."

The fine participation of Nebraska contributors in the Nest Survey is appreciated very much. The program at the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology is developing at an unusual rate because of heightened interest in the program throughout the country.

Cards, instruction sheets, and Laboratory of Ornithology Nest Survey Newsletters may be obtained from Dr. Esther Bennett, 600 S. 33, Lincoln, Nebraska 68510. Completed cards should be returned to Dr. Bennett by October 1, 1972.

*City Naturalist, Lincoln*

## 1971 CHRISTMAS COUNT

Ninety-nine species were recorded in the 1972 Christmas counts from ten localities, and five other species were reported as present during the count period but not recorded on the count itself. The comparable figures for 1970 were ninety-five species recorded, and five present but not recorded, from ten localities. Rock Doves are not included in this (1971) tabulation because, in accordance with Audubon's request, they were not shown on several of the reports. However, Meadowlarks were split this year, rather than reported only as "sp", because the identification where both forms were reported was based on call notes (see the comment for Lincoln and for Indian Cave). The total number of individuals reported this year is 122,125, compared to over 131,083 last year. The approximate sizes of important decreases this year are Mallard, 4,000; Starlings, 6,000; Red-winged Blackbirds, 4,000; Grackles, 1,000; and Rock Doves were 980 last year. The approximate sizes of important increase this year are Snow Goose, 9,000, and Blue Goose, 1,000. Both types of Flickers were reported both years. This year Chadron, Hastings, and Indian Cave reported only "Flickers"; Scottsbluff reported 6 Yellow-shafted and 19 Red-shafted, Kearney 2 and 1, Beatrice 25 and 7, and Omaha 145 and 2; Greeley and Lincoln reported only Yellow-shafted.

The columns are arranged in an approximate west (left) to east (right) order, with the northernmost point shown first when points are about of the same longitude. The symbol "H" is used to indicate species present during the count period but not observed on the count day.



Beatrice, December 26. Eleven observers in 3 parties. Twenty-eight party hours, 23 by car, 5 by foot; 243 party miles, 234 by car, 9 by foot; plus 3 party hours, 44 party miles, calling owls from 4:30 to 7:30 AM. 7:30 AM to 5:30 PM. Cloudy, snow in the afternoon, no ice, 19° to 24°, wind from the northwest from 7 to 20 mph. Vera Anderson (reporter), Joyce Beach, Calvin Cink, Kent Fiala, Edith Higgins, Grace Higgins, Norma Larimore, Mrs. Mildred Luebben, Mrs. Roxana Peckman, Mrs. Esther Smith, Mrs. Ruby Weigel.

Chadron, January 9. 8 AM to 3 PM. Calm to very windy, 30°. Chadron to Whitney, 64 miles. Marj Blinde, Doris Gates (reporter), Priscilla Mays, Z. Uridil. The lack of the common prairie birds was assumed to be due to the wind.

Columbus, December 31. Along the Platte River near Monroe. Twenty-six miles, 24 by car, 2 by foot. 7 AM to 10 AM. 5 mph wind, 25° to 30°. Rev. Keith Bruning, Pete Bruning, Doug Moody (reporter).

Greeley, December 31. Moody farm, Pibel Lake Recreational Area, and the roads and shelterbelts in between. Fifty-six miles, 54 by car, 2 by foot. 2 PM to 6 PM. Wind 5 to 10 mph from north, 30° to 32°. Rev. Keith Bruning, Pete Bruning, Doug Moody (reporter).

Hastings, December 18. A fifteen-mile circle with its center south of town, 1.5 miles south of Highway 6 and .5 miles east of Highway 281, to include city parks, Parkview Cemetery, Crystal Lake, woodlands along the Little Blue River, fields and pastures, and lagoons west of Glenvil. Clear, winds calm to 15 mph, 24° to 51°, very little snow, ponds frozen, river open. Thirteen observers in 6 parties. Party hours 24, 10 on foot, 14 by car; party miles 191, 9 on foot, 182 by car. Mrs. George Anderson, Miss Clema Borland, Miss Geraldine Heartwell, Miss Marie Heiss, Mrs. Wm. Helzer, Miss Helen Kucera, Burton Nelson, Eldon Pervival, O. W. Ritchey, Mrs. O. W. Ritchey (reporter), David Ross Jr., Bernice Welch, Mrs. Ronald Whitaker. The Brown Thrasher is spending the winter in the same yard it was in last year.

Indian Cave State Park (Richardson County), January 2. All points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center 2 miles east of the junction of State Highways 62 and 67, to include Indian Cave State Park, Missouri River, Verdon, Shubert, Barada, and Nemaha River. Deciduous woods 25%, fields and pastures 68%, brushy draws 6%, water 1%. 6:30 AM to 7:15 PM. Clear in morning but growing progressively more cloudy towards day's end, snowing in the evening. No snow on the ground and most water open. Six observers in 3 parties. Sam Antholz, Calvin Cink (reporter), Hazel and Fitzhugh Diggs, Kent Fiala, and Dan Hatch. The Snow Geese and Bald Eagles were seen along the Missouri River. The numbers of Red-headed Woodpeckers, Bluebirds, and Titmice were noteworthy. The observers again (see Lincoln) attempted to call up owls with a tape recorder, but this time waited until evening to begin. Unfortunately a storm broke loose just shortly after they started and they got only 3 Screech Owls. They did get an Eastern Meadowlark call, but it was too windy for good results and "besides it takes too long to sit and listen for calls when you have so much territory to cover. Three teams spent the entire morning covering the park itself". The dirt roads were frozen during the morning, but thawed quickly, and one car got stuck in the park.

Kearney, December 31. A fifteen-mile diameter circle, centered at the Platte River bridge south of Kearney, to include Kearney Cemetery, Wood River area, Fort Kearney State Park, Platte River, Odessa Bridge, Ludden

Woods, and Kearney city streets. 8 AM to 4 PM. Clear all day, 21° to 54°, wind southwest at 10 to 18 mph. No snow, river open with patches of floating ice. Five observers in one party, 72 party miles, 69 by car, 3 on foot. George W. Brown (reporter), Marian G. Brown, Norma Radford, Jack Unbehaun, Lorraine Unbehaun.

Lincoln, December 19. A fifteen-mile diameter circle, centered at South Coddington and A Street (center shifted west from 14th and A), to include Pioneers Park, Wyuka Cemetery, Capital Beach Lake, Pawnee, Lake, Cone-stoga Lake, Salt Creek, Yankee Hill Reservoir, and Wilderness Park. Coniferous woods 1%, deciduous woods 40%, brushy draws 5%, fields and pastures 50%, water 4%. 5:30 AM to 5:15 PM Cloudy in the morning but clear in the afternoon, 25° to 34°, no snow, most lakes with some open water. Nineteen observers in 5 parties: Mary Jo Cink, Calvin Cink (reporter), Shirley Doole, Elizabeth Ernst, Kent Fiala, Everett and Mildred Gross, Ralph Harrington, Willard and Hildur Hogan, Norma Johnson, Rosalind Morris, Tressie Murdoch, John and Mabel Ott, and Frances Taylor. In spite of a shift to include more water area in the count area, fewer waterfowl were seen than on last year's count. However, the Ruddy Duck is a new species for the Lincoln count, and it was seen well through spotting scopes. Both the Killdeer and the Common Snipe were seen in Salt Creek, very close to each other. They were feeding on the mud flats and were observed from the top of a dike at a distance of about 30 yards. This year a tape recorder was included in the equipment and in two hours in the early morning 6 Screech Owls and 5 Great Horned Owls were called up (and another Screech Owl was called up in the evening). Mr. Cink feels that with no wind and better organization they could call up as many as 20 owls, and adds: "For a bird which is so infrequently seen our tape census reveals there may be more Screech Owls around than most people realize." Long-eared Owls were common seen in Lancaster County all winter, and it was disappointing that others previously located were not seen on the count day. The one which was seen was unexpected, but seen at about 30 feet. Mr. Cink and Mr. Fiala had learned the call notes of the two species of Meadowlarks, but because of the wind and the fact that the birds were very silent on the count day they were unable to get any Easterns, as they had in practice runs. The Evening Grosbeaks had been coming to a feeder all winter. Several of the White-throated Sparrows were observed at the feeder of the Nature Center.

Omaha, December 18. A fifteen-mile diameter circle centered at Offutt Lake (about 3 miles north of the junction of the Platte and Missouri Rivers) to include Fontenelle Forest, Lake Manawa (Iowa) State Park, and portions of the Platte and Missouri Rivers. Deciduous growth 30%, field and pastures 45%, roadsides 20%, water 5%. 7 AM to 5 PM. None to few (5%) clouds, 23° to 54°, wind southeast to southwest 12 to 16 mph. Sparse snow cover in sheltered areas only. Lakes 25% frozen, rivers and springs open. Forty-one observers in 13 parties; total party hours 99, 64 on foot, 35 by car; total party miles 371, 83 on foot, 288 by car. Curtis Abdouch, William A. Bayer, Dan Cassidy, Harold Chase, Graham Chisholm, Evelyn E. Conrad, Rev. Alban J. Dachauer, S. J., Jim Delehant, Kerry Evans, Michael Gawerecki, Ruth Green, Janet Greer, Mary Catherine Harberg, C. E. Heaney, Jr., Rev. Thomas Hoffman, S. J., Allen Holcomb, Dr. Larry Holcomb, Paul Holcomb, Emma Johnson, Clyde Johnson, Teta Kain, Carolyn Kiper, Glenn LeDioyt, Robert LoPresti, James Malkowski, Claire Maloney, Marian Meier,

— Text continued on page 21

	Scotts- Bluff	Chad- ron	Kear- ney	Gree- ley	Hast- ings	Colum- bus	Lin- coln	Beat- rice	Omaha	Ind. Cave	Total
Canada Goose	100	-	200	-	25	-	-	-	200	-	525
White-fronted Goose	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	2
Snow Goose	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4,052	5,500	9,552
Blue Goose	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,020	-	2,020
Mallard	78,000	-	22	-	-	-	62	2	516	670	79,272
Pintail	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	4
Blue-winged Teal	30	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	30
American Widgeon	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	2
Lesser Scaup	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Common Goldeneye	H	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	4	-	5
Bufflehead	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
Ruddy Duck	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
Common Merganser	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	15	-	19
Red-breasted Merganser	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Cooper's Hawk	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Red-tailed Hawk	1	2	2	-	4	-	14	6	30	24	83
Red-shouldered Hawk	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Broad-winged Hawk	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	3
Swainson's Hawk	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	5
Rough-legged Hawk	6	4	1	-	1	-	4	-	6	5	27
Golden Eagle	10	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	11
Bald Eagle	13	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	10	3	27
Marsh Hawk	12	1	1	1	5	-	5	6	11	15	57
Prairie Falcon	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
Peregrine Falcon	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Pigeon Hawk	H	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Sparrow Hawk	2	-	2	-	3	-	14	2	20	7	50
Bobwhite	31	-	-	H	15	-	24	68	57	33	228
Ring-necked Pheasant	2	1	4	2	11	H	13	8	24	-	65
Turkey	H	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sandhill Crane	-	-	200	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	200
American Coot	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
Killdeer	1	-	-	-	2	-	1	-	-	-	4
Common Snipe	3	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	6
Herring Gull	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Ring-billed Gull	-	-	2	-	-	-	2	-	5	-	9
Mourning Dove	6	-	-	2	2	5	111	10	137	74	347

## Nebraska Bird Review

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	Scotts- Bluff	Chad- ron	Kear- ney	Gree- ley	Hast- ings	Colum- bus	Lin- coln	Beat- rice	Omaha	Ind. Cave	Total
Screech Owl	-	-	-	-	-	-	7	2	2	3	14
Great Horned Owl	2	-	3	3	3	-	8	8	8	2	37
Barred Owl	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	3
Long-eared Owl	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
Belted Kingfisher	3	-	1	-	1	-	1	3	4	1	14
Flicker	23	1	3	1	12	14	13	32	147	24	270
Red-bellied Woodpecker	-	-	2	-	6	-	4	11	194	40	257
Red-headed Woodpecker	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	88	142	232
Lewis' Woodpecker	H	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	4
Hairy Woodpecker	-	-	1	-	4	-	4	10	12	12	43
Downy Woodpecker	3	6	2	4	16	1	19	20	128	46	245
Horned Lark	63	-	133	45	700	-	34	291	22	4	1,292
Blue Jay	6	-	2	-	8	-	53	41	103	60	273
Black-billed Magpie	40	7	4	6	16	H	-	-	-	-	73
Common Crow	10	-	1	3	110	5	193	20	596	13	951
Pinon Jay	350	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	350
Black-capped Chickadee	22	48	15	10	88	15	53	61	431	103	846
Tufted Titmouse	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	42	53	96
White-breasted Nuthatch	-	7	1	8	3	25	6	18	91	28	187
Red-breasted Nuthatch	1	-	-	-	6	-	1	-	1	-	9
Pygmy Nuthatch	-	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7
Brown Creeper	H	3	-	-	-	-	4	17	12	7	43
Winter Wren	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	2
Carolina Wren	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Mockingbird	H	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
Brown Thrasher	-	-	-	-	H	-	-	-	-	-	-
Robin	98	5	11	-	100	-	34	226	88	6	568
Eastern Bluebird	-	-	H	-	-	H	-	9	26	41	76
Townsend's Solitaire	18	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	22
Golden-crowned Kinglet	-	-	1	-	1	-	1	5	6	1	15
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	2	-	4
Bohemian Waxwing	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Cedar Waxwing	-	-	-	-	46	-	22	-	35	-	103
Northern Shrike	5	-	H	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	7
Loggerhead Shrike	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	5	8

	Scotts- Bluff	Chad- ron	Kear- ney	Gree- ley	Hast- ings	Colum- bus	Lin- coln	Beat- rice	Omaha	Ind. Cave	Total
Starling	743	4	155	4	1,000	10	2,075	428	2,084	102	6,605
House Sparrow	577	23	130	50	900	130	3,449	1,449	1,174	1,750	9,632
Eastern Meadowlark	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	87	-	1	88
Meadowlark sp.	-	-	-	-	-	-	67	-	38	22	127
Western Meadowlark	120	-	26	2	150	-	12	20	-	5	335
Red-winged Blackbird	345	-	-	-	33	-	5	-	459	29	871
Baltimore Oriole	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Rusty Blackbird	-	-	-	-	30	-	-	-	357	-	387
Common Grackle	-	-	-	-	8	-	30	-	603	3	644
Brown-headed Cowbird	-	-	-	-	-	-	26	-	7	-	33
Cardinal	-	-	1	-	12	H	59	55	127	57	311
Evening Grosbeak	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	H	-	-	3
Purple Finch	-	-	-	-	3	-	37	-	6	-	46
House Finch	14	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	14
Common Redpoll	-	18	-	4	-	-	-	7	-	-	29
Pine Siskin	15	15	-	-	4	-	5	-	20	-	59
American Goldfinch	85	-	12	H	44	1	246	18	110	41	557
Red Crossbill	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	2
Rufous-sided Towhee	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
White-winged Junco	H	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
Slate-colored Junco	15	3	17	6	50	-	218	126	462	117	1,014
Oregon Junco	4	3	2	-	1	-	4	2	-	-	16
Gray-headed Junco	H	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tree Sparrow	91	1	63	2	75	-	496	256	370	336	1,690
Chipping Sparrow	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	2
Harris' Sparrow	2	3	-	-	29	-	150	148	37	47	416
White-crowned Sparrow	9	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	10
White-throated Sparrow	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	3
Fox Sparrow	H	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Swamp Sparrow	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Song Sparrow	3	-	-	-	10	-	2	3	10	4	32
Lapland Longspur	-	-	-	-	14	-	492	67	-	-	573
Species reported	43	26	34	17	45	10	54	42	66	42	99
Present but not seen	9	-	2	2	1	4	-	1	-	-	5
Individuals reported	80,888	174	1,023	153	3,559	207	8,099	3,551	15,030	9,441	122,125

Dan Morris, Wanda Neaderhiser, Catherine Nelson, Barbara Padelford, Loren Padelford, Marie J. Pluta (reporter), Kenneth W. Seger, Dr. Roger Sharpe, E. Thomas Stacey, Carl H. Swanson, Dr. Mary Tremaine, Melba Wigg, Gertrude Wood, James D. Zahller. The Lesser Scaup was a male, seen in good light; the Red-breasted Merganser was a female, seen in company with 2 male and 1 female Common Mergansers at about 100 feet, and observed for about 3 or 4 minutes. The gradually-shaded throate was noted and compared to that of the female Common Merganser. The Swainson's Hawks were both light phase, and seen by different parties at different places and different times. The Herring Gull was seen well in low flight; one had been seen about a week before. The Rusty Blackbirds build up at springs in Fontenelle Forest. Chipping Sparrows were also reported last year, and Swamp Sparrows the last two years. The total of 66 species exceeds the previous record of 57 set in 1966.

Scottsbluff, December 18. A fifteen-mile diameter circle centered on the bridge across the North Platte River at South Broadway, to include Scottsbluff and Gering. 7 AM to 4:30 PM. Fair and mild, 24° to 55°. Ten observers in 4 parties. Mrs. Jessie Acker, Mrs. Harry Banghart, Lydia Bolz, Mrs. J. J. Brasher, A. A. Hehnke, Mrs. A. A. Hehnke, James McCole, Roy Witschy, Mrs. Roy Witschy (reporter), Shaw R. Young. Mr. McCole, a game warden, was particularly helpful in counting the ducks. The Baltimore Oriole (a male) had taken advantage of the mild weather up to about Christmas, and was feeding on dried apples and using a bird bath.

#### Addition to 1970 Nebraska Nesting Survey

Information on the Nest Record Cards completed by Dr. Larry C. Holcomb in 1970 was received too late to be included in the 1970 Nebraska Nesting Survey (*NBR* 39:10). It is given below for the record.

	Thomas	Merrick	Dodge	Douglas	Total
Ring-necked Pheasant	-	-	-	1	1
Mourning Dove	1	-	10	52	63
Black-billed Cuckoo	-	-	-	2	2
Eastern Kingbird	-	-	-	1	1
Black-billed Magpie	1	-	-	-	1
Catbird	-	-	-	15	15
Brown Thrasher	-	-	1	8	9
Robin	-	1	14	50	65
Yellow Warbler	-	-	-	13	13
Yellowthroat	-	-	-	3	3
House Sparrow	-	-	-	1	1
Red-winged Blackbird	-	-	-	248	248
Orchard Oriole	-	-	-	4	4
Common Grackle	-	1	9	22	32
Brown-headed Cowbird	-	-	-	74	74
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	-	-	-	1	1
American Goldfinch	-	-	-	1	1
Total	2	2	34	496	534

## NOTES

COMMON LOON. Allow me to add to the excellent article on the Common Loon (*NBR* 39:42.). I have records of four sightings for Dawson County, none of which has been reported. All were along the Darr bridge which I had to cross on the way to and from Lexington to the farm where I grew up.

December 24, 1937. Platte near north end of bridge. Very cold and windy. The bird was riding very low in the water with a profile of body, head, and sharp bill like the picture in my book. I had never seen one before.

May 28 and June 1, 1939. Both times on the beaver pond half-way across the bridge. Adult plumage. I knew they didn't breed in the state and couldn't figure out what it was doing here. It is still one of the mysteries of my life what a grown Loon in such striking plumage was doing on the Platte River in the summer.

December 25, 1941. Near the same place as the first one, near the north end of the bridge in one of the main channels. The head and bill were again most distinctive as was the position of the body very low in the water.

I also have a record for Lancaster County - November 8, 1969, at Wagon-train Lake. It was far out and I had a 40x telescope to watch it for some time. Again it was riding low in the water, with white under the throat and dark on the back.

— Carol Kinch, Lincoln

PIED-BILLED GREBE. I have a breeding record of which Mr. Cink was not aware (*NBR* 39:58). I saw a pair with three young, close in to shore on Pawnee Lake August 14, 1966.

— Carol Kinch, Lincoln

A SANDHILL LAKE. One day in May, 1971, I spent a very early morning by a sandhill lake a short distance west of Whitman, Nebr. I was there before sunrise and stayed about four hours listening to the various sounds of birds as they awakened for the new day and I watched them as soon as there was enough light. I could hear several American Bitterns and some seemed close but I never could see one.

The most spectacular show was put on by the White Pelicans and Double-crested Cormorants. In one small area several Pelicans — maybe twelve — were bunched more or less in a circle and when they fed they put their heads under water and kicked water into the air making a lot of splashing and confusion.

A short distance away there was somewhat of a line of Cormorants diving and surfacing and moving across the lake. Among them were a few Pelicans waiting for a Cormorant to come up with a fish in its mouth. When this happened, a Pelican would move as fast as it could toward the Cormorant and try to get the fish. Usually the Cormorant quickly swallowed the fish, but sometimes it dived again to escape. I didn't see a Pelican get a fish from any Cormorant, but they certainly tried.

There were many other things to see and hear. Long-billed Marsh Wrens made a constant chatter in the emergent vegetation around the edges of the lake, and sometimes they stood on a strand of cattail above the water and sang. Black, Forster's and Common Terns were there as well as many kinds of ducks.

A sandhill lake provides a spring show that everyone should see!

— Doris Gates, Chadron

DE SOTO NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE (Washington County, and Iowa). On November 14, 1970, on a tour through the Refuge with special permission, we saw over 300 thousand Snow and Blue Geese, 200 Canada Geese, 29 White-fronted Geese, and Mallards estimated at almost a million by the Refuge personnel. We also saw two adult and two immature Bald Eagles. On November 28, again with special permission, we saw 150 thousand Blue and Snow Geese, 450 Canada Geese, 6 White-fronted Geese, and an estimated half million Mallards. We also saw six adult and six immature Bald Eagles, and a Killdeer. A Great Blue Heron was reported present but we didn't locate it.

— James M. Malkowski, Bellevue

EAGLE AND HAWKS. I saw an adult Bald Eagle soaring close to here, about 10 December. It seemed to be moving in a southeasterly direction. Very seldom have I seen them this far from open water. There are a lot of Rough-legged Hawks here this winter, and I've never seen as many Prairie Falcons as I have the last several days. On 4 December I saw three in a four-mile drive. I even saw one Peregrine Falcon on 3 December, on a light pole along the road in one of the big basins close to here. I haven't seen very many of them, so I figured that was a real good find.

— Lee Morris, Benedict

EARLY PHEASANTS IN WESTERN NEBRASKA. In the years prior to 1920, we lived on the HO Ranch in Perkins County, which abuts Colorado. The ranch belonged to my mother's father, G.W. Holdrege, an early Burlington Railroad officer.

In summer of 1916 or 1917 — Mother isn't sure which — her brother, the late Henry A. Holdrege, of Omaha, sent her a clutch of Chinese Pheasant eggs — twenty-four in all — and she placed them under a setting hen.

Twenty-four eggs under one hen sound like a lot but, as Mother explains it, the eggs were small and the hen was large. Every one of the twenty-four hatched, and the resulting chicks nearly drove the poor foster mother crazy because they were so wild. They wouldn't follow her up close to the house to be fed. They wouldn't get tame and allow themselves to be handled. They would scatter and take cover at the approach of any human being.

At the time suggested in the directions that came with the eggs the chicks were captured and their wings were clipped, but apparently they weren't clipped close enough, because by the end of summer every one of them had disappeared, and we had not a single one left for the table!

By the next fall, Pheasants began to be seen in increasing numbers along the Platte, which was about eighteen miles north of us. So we are reasonably sure that Uncle Harry's present to Mother had quite a bit to do with starting the Pheasant population in the western part of Nebraska.

— Frances Holyoke McCoy, Omaha

CASPIAN TERNS. On the morning of May 26, 1971, I observed two adult Caspian Terns which were in low flight to the northwest, near Muddy Creek between Cook and Syracuse. I identified them by their large size, loud harsh call, blood-red bill, and moderately forked tails.

— Sam Antholz, Cook

HOUSE FINCH. Many House Finches were singing all through the residential sections of McCook on 12 April 1971, a warm, sunshiny day there.

— Mrs. M. A. Cox, Hershey



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**SHOREBIRDS RECAPTURE OPERATION.** Several species of shorebirds will be marked with yellow feather dye on the underparts, and yellow streamers attached to the leg, in the 1972 fall migration. Sanderlings will be marked only with leg streamers. Birds will be caught on the Magdalen Islands (Gulf of St. Lawrence).

Reports of sight records should include the locality, date, species, name and address of observer(s). Please weigh the bird and read the band number if taken alive.

Information should be sent to:

Raymond McNeil  
Centre de Recherches Ecologiques de Montreal  
4101 est, rue Sherbrooke  
Montreal 406, Que  
Canada

THE DECEMBER, 1971, REVIEW is dated December, 1972, although it is properly numbered (Volume XXXIX, Number 4). You may want to correct the date to avoid confusion later on.